

Maryland Trails: A Greener Way To Go

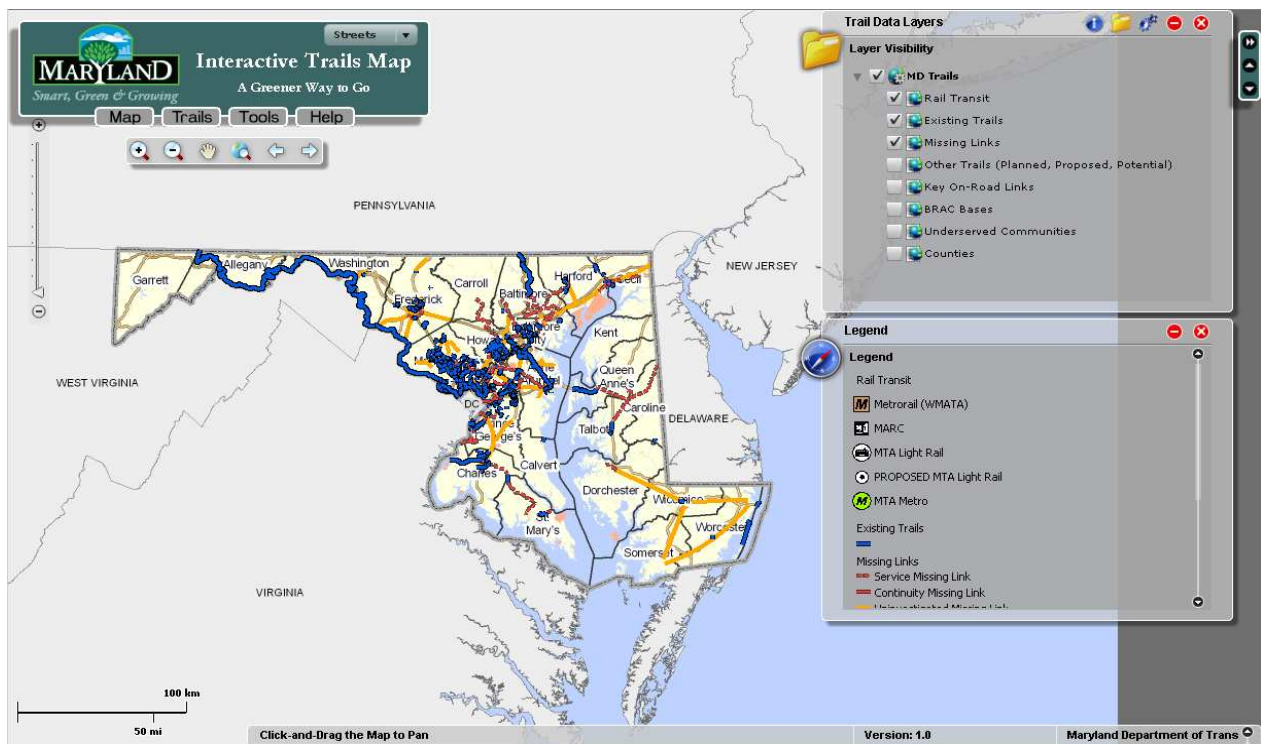
Interactive Trails Map Users Guide

The Maryland Interactive Trails Map was developed by the Maryland Department of Transportation as the first step towards an application that will help the State of Maryland track it's progress towards trail goals, provide local governments and agencies a venue to coordinate trail planning activities, and assist Maryland residents and visitors learn about local trail opportunities.

Specialized software is not required to use this map. Only a web browser is needed. The map application will work correctly on any browser for which Flash Player is available (e.g. Internet Explorer, Firefox, Opera, Safari). Flash Player 10 is recommended. If you are using an older version of Flash Player or a web browser for which Flash Player is not available, the map may not function as designed.

[▶ Go to Interactive Trails Map](#)

Upon clicking on the “Go to Interactive Trails Map” button the map will load in several seconds. The Interactive Trails Map menus and tools are located in the upper left corner of the window. A list of available Trail Data Layers and the map Legend are located in the upper right corner of the window.



Data Layers Shown on Start-up

Existing Trails



Existing Trails - When the map opens existing “transportation trails” are shown in dark blue. “Transportation trails” are shared-use paths that can be used for both transportation and recreation (sometimes called multi-use or hiker-biker trails).

Rail Transit



Metrorail (WMATA)



MARC



MTA Light Rail



PROPOSED MTA Light Rail



MTA Metro

Rail Transit - The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) rail, Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) rail, existing and proposed Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) light rail, and MTA Metro rail stations are shown using the symbols to the left. *Note:* Transit stations are only visible on the map when it is zoomed in to the city/county level.

Missing Links



Service Missing Link



Continuity Missing Link





Uninvestigated Missing Link

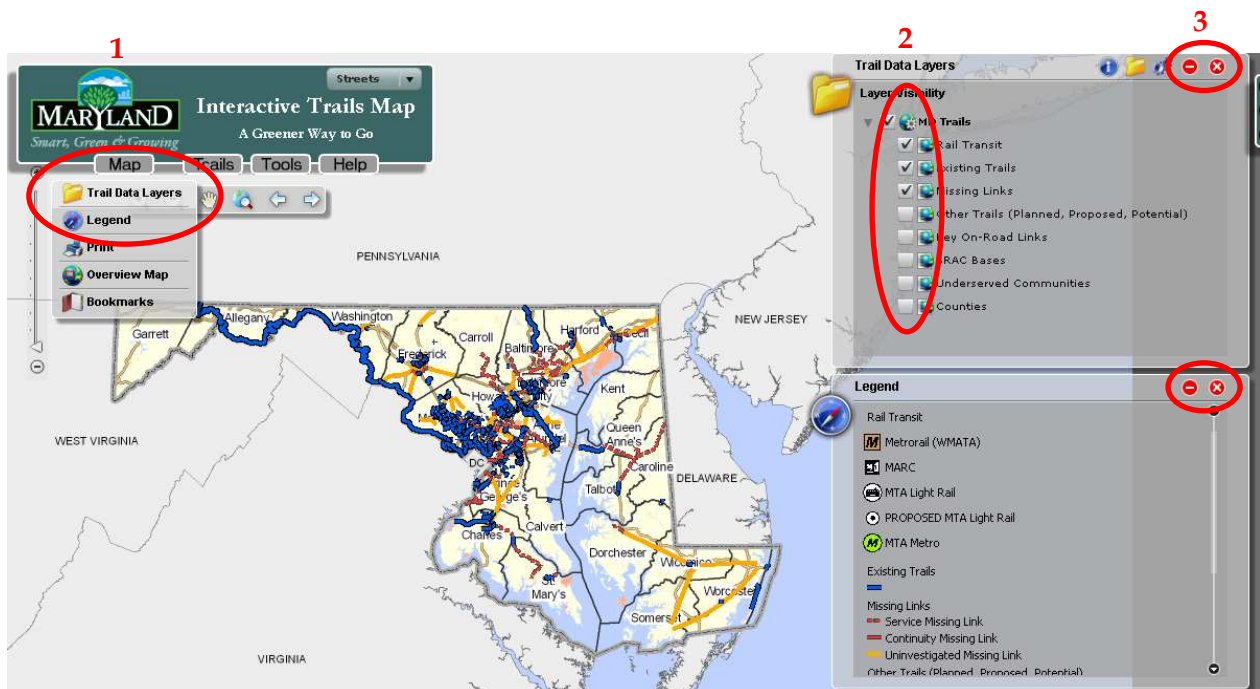
Missing Links - This layer represents key links in Maryland’s transportation trails network that have not yet been developed. Missing Links are classified into three categories:

- **Service Missing Links** - These are corridors within and between major population/employment centers that are without existing trail linkages. Generally, these gaps are greater than 2.0 miles in length.
- **Continuity Missing Links** - These are gaps between existing or planned trails and are generally less than 2.0 miles in length. Continuity gaps also include trail links to transit stations.
- **Uninvestigated Missing Links** - These are conceptual trail links, identified only as a need. No trail corridor has been defined. The length of the link is a gross estimate and the actual extent or points of linkage to other trails are undetermined.

Changing the Data on the Map

The Interactive Trails Map automatically displays existing transportation trails, existing and proposed rail transit stations, and missing links when it opens. The user can control what data is displayed on the map using the Trail Data Layers window.

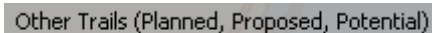
1. The Trail Data Layers and Legend windows are shown in the upper right corner of the Interactive Trails Map when the application starts. If you have closed the Trail Data Layers or Legend windows, you can reopen them by placing your mouse over the **Map menu** and clicking on **Trail Data Layers** or **Legend**.
2. The data that can be displayed on the Interactive Trails Map is listed in the Trail Data Layers window. Check marks indicate the data layers that are “turned on” and are visible on the map. Clicking on a check box will turn a data layer on or off. The map will redraw automatically.
3. To minimize the Trails Data Layers or Legend windows, click the red minus sign  icon. To close the Trails Data Layers or Legend windows, click the red X  icon.



Supporting Data Layer Descriptions

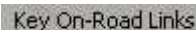
Additional data layers that can be viewed in the Interactive Trails Map include:

- **Other Trails (Planned, Proposed, Potential) –**



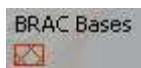
This layer represents transportation trail projects that have not yet been developed and are not currently identified as key missing links in the Statewide transportation trail network. Planned trails have been included in an adopted plan or are otherwise actively moving through a planning process. Proposed trails are in the early stage of the planning process or have been proposed by citizens, advocacy groups, or government agencies. Potential trails have had only a cursory level of investigation into right-of-way, environmental issues, public support, engineering, etc.

- **Key On-Road Links –**



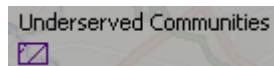
This layer represents on-road links (identified to date) that connect trails and fill gaps in the Statewide transportation trail network (e.g. on-road portions of the East Coast Greenway and Baltimore-Washington routes). These links are *not* all signed on-road bike routes.

- **BRAC Bases –**



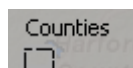
Military bases impacted by the Federal Base Realignment and Closure Act of 2005 (BRAC).

- **Underserved Communities –**



Underserved communities are areas with few or no transportation trails. Underserved communities were identified based on population density and the location of existing trails and missing links.

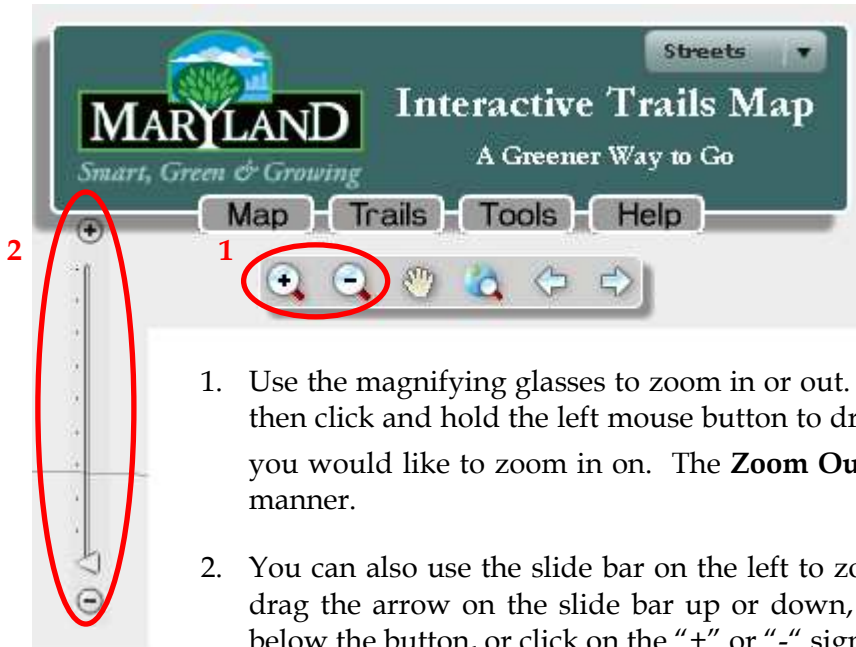
- **Counties –**





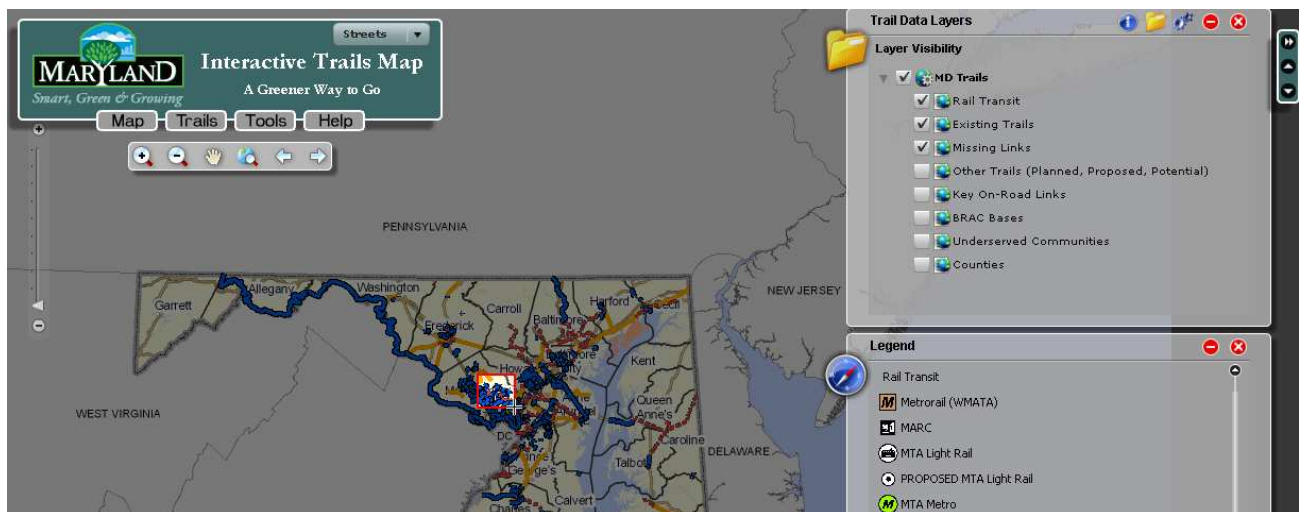
Maryland county boundaries are shown as a black dashed line.

Navigating Around the Map

Zooming In or Out to See More or Less Detail



1. Use the magnifying glasses to zoom in or out. Click on the **Zoom In**  icon, then click and hold the left mouse button to drag a red square around the area you would like to zoom in on. The **Zoom Out**  tool functions in the same manner.
2. You can also use the slide bar on the left to zoom in or out. With the mouse, drag the arrow on the slide bar up or down, click on the slide bar above or below the button, or click on the "+" or "-" sign at the slide bar ends.



Other Basic Navigation Tools



Click the **Pan** (hand) icon. Click on the map and hold the left mouse button down to move the map around in the window







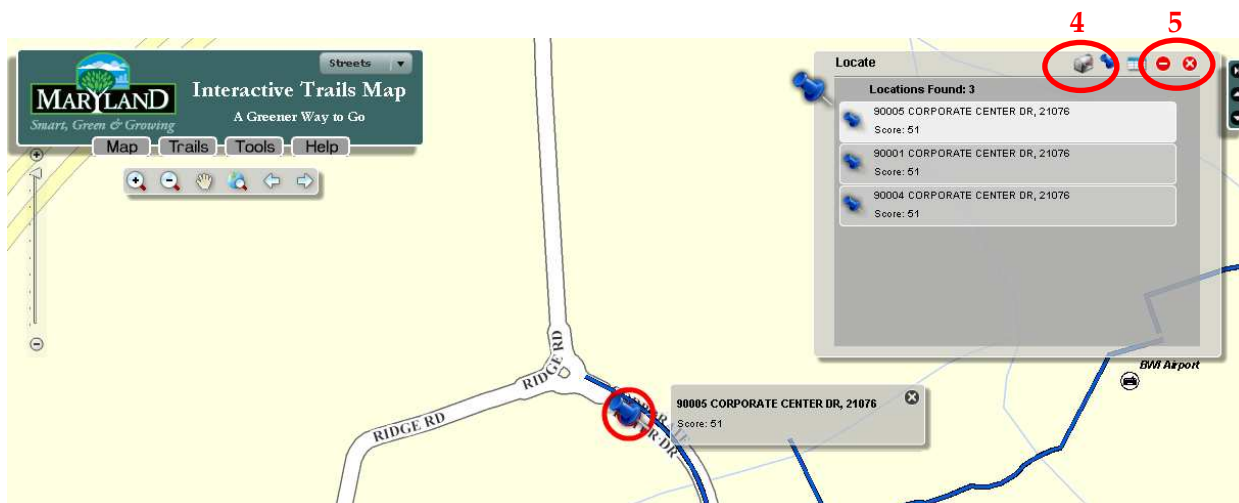
Click the **Zoom to Full Extent** button to zoom out to the state level.



Click the **Zoom Previous** and **Zoom Next** buttons to go back to a previous view of the map.

Locating a Street Address

1. Mouse over the **Tools** menu and click on the **Locate** tool.
2. In the Locate pop-up window that appears, enter a street address and zip code. (NOTE: A zip code is required for the Locate tool to work correctly.) Click the **Locate** button.
3. A list of the closest matches to your search will appear in the Locate window. Clicking on or holding your mouse over an address in the results list will cause the map to zoom to the address and show the location with a blue pushpin  icon.
4. To look up a new address, click the mailbox  icon.
5. To minimize the Locate window, click the red minus sign  icon. To close the Locate window, click the red X  icon.



Changing the Background Map

The Interactive Trails Map provides two different background map options:






- Streets view shows roads, place names, etc.
- Satellite view shows an aerial image.

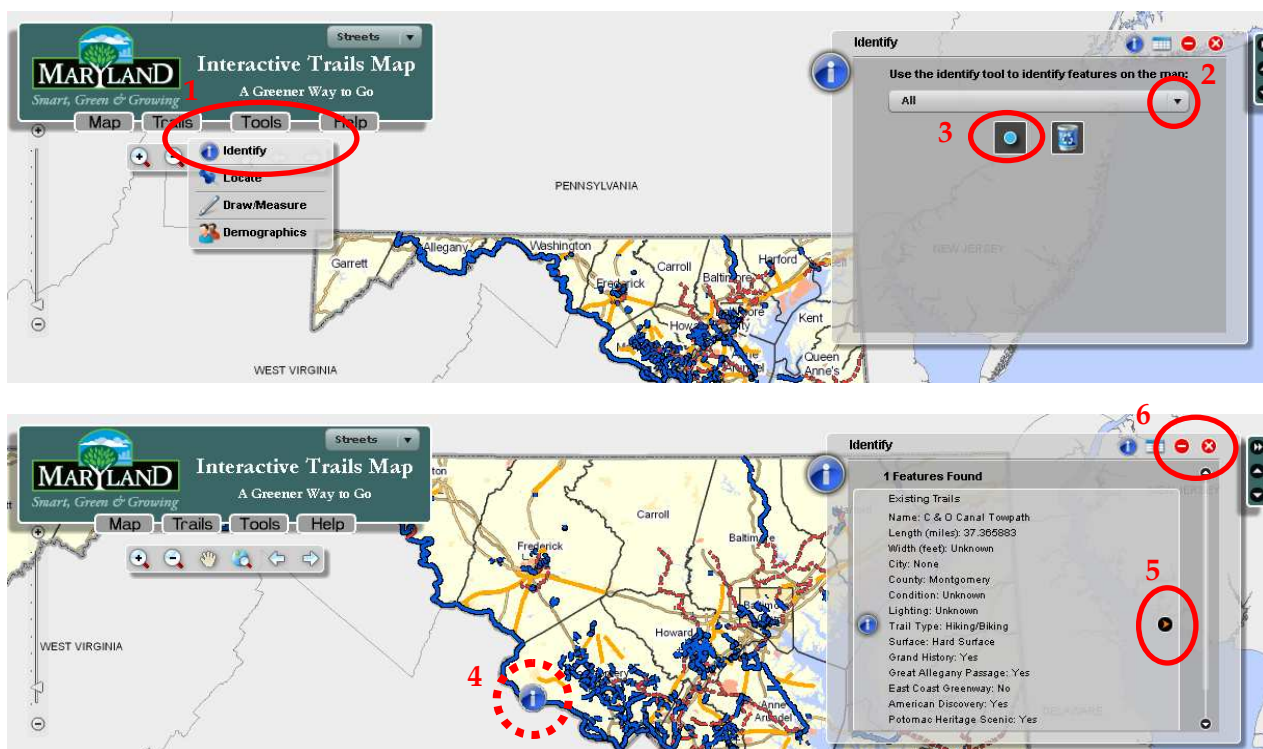
To change the background map, click on the Background Map pull-down menu and select an option from the list; Streets or Satellite.



Identify Features & View Detailed Data

The Identify tool allows users to identify features on the map and view more detailed data about each feature.

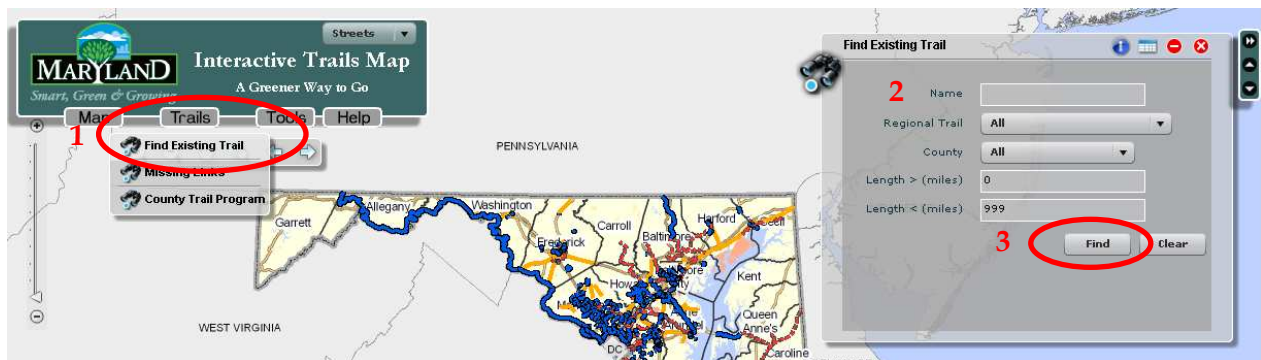
1. Mouse over the **Tools** menu and click on **Identify**.
2. To limit the Identify results to a particular layer (e.g. existing trails), select the layer from the pull-down menu in the Identify pop-up window.
3. Click the blue dot  icon.
4. Click on any feature in the map to identify it and view more detailed information. An  icon will appear on the map and detailed information about features located at that point will appear in the Identify window. Use the scroll bar on the right side of the Identify window to scroll through results.
5. Clicking on an item in the results list will cause the map to zoom in on the item/location. Click on the orange arrow  icon next to any result to open a new web browser window/tab to the target county or transit agency's website.
6. To minimize the Identify window, click the red minus sign  icon. To close the Identify window, click the red X  icon.



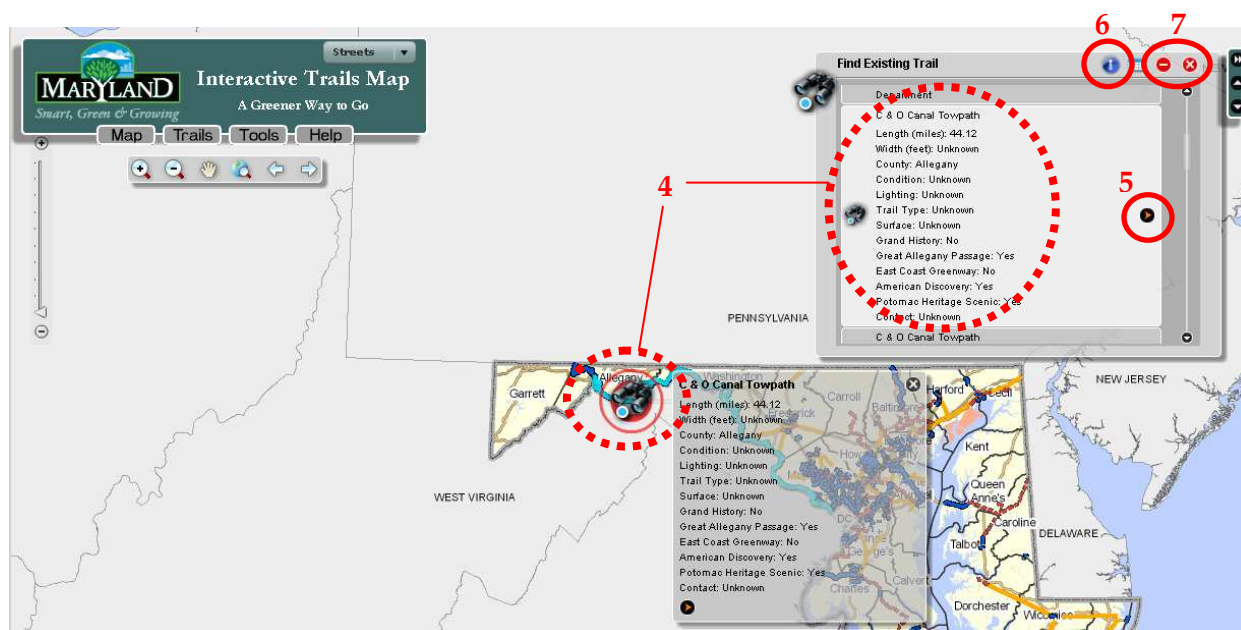
Find an Existing Transportation Trail

The Interactive Trails Map can be used to locate existing transportation trails in Maryland based on trail name, county location, trail length, or status as a link in a major regional trail system.

1. Mouse over the **Trails** menu and click on **Find Existing Trail**.
2. In the Find Existing Trail pop-up window:
 - Enter all or part of the name of a trail (e.g. entering “Falls Trail” will highlight Gwynn Falls Trail and Jones Falls Trail on the map), *or*
 - Select a regional trail system (e.g. East Coast Greenway) from the pull-down menu; *or*
 - Select a county from the pull-down menu, *or*
 - Enter a range of trail lengths (e.g. 0-10 miles).
3. Click the **Find** button. A list of trail segments that match the search criteria will appear in the Find Existing Trail window. These trail segments will also be highlighted on the map. Use the scroll bar on the right side of the Find Existing Trail window to scroll through results.







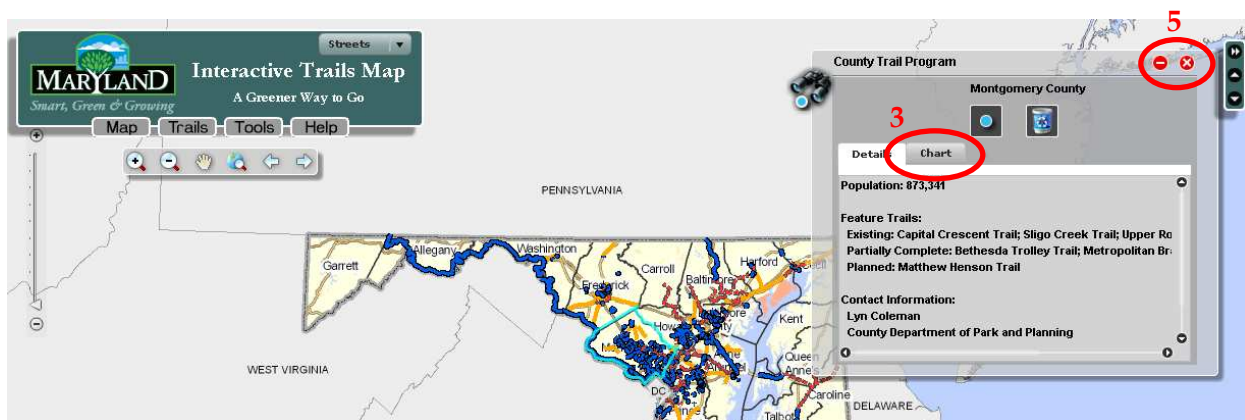
4. Hold your mouse over any trail segment in the results list to pan the map to that trail segment. Click on any trail segment in the results list to zoom in on it. A binoculars icon will appear over the selected trail segment.
5. Click on the orange arrow icon next to any result to open a new web browser window/tab to the target county's trail program website.
6. Click on the information icon to start a new search.
7. To minimize the Find Existing Trail window, click the red minus sign icon. To close the window, click the red X icon.



View County Trail Program Information

The County Trail Program tool provides users a summary of each county's existing and planned transportation trail network. It also provides contact information for local trail planners and links to local trail planning websites (if available).

1. Mouse over the **Trails** menu and click on **County Trail Program**.
2. Click the blue dot  icon, then click anywhere on the map to select a county. The selected county will be highlighted on the map and detailed information about the county's trail program will appear in the County Trail Program window. Use the scroll bars to scroll through the information.
3. Click the **Chart** tab to view a pie chart of existing transportation trail and missing link mileage in the county. Mouse over the chart segments to see more detailed information. Click on the mileage chart to toggle to a chart of Federal trail funding sources.
4. To view information for a new county, click the blue dot  icon and then click on a new county on the map.
5. To minimize the County Trail Program window, click the red minus sign  icon. To close the window, click the red X  icon.



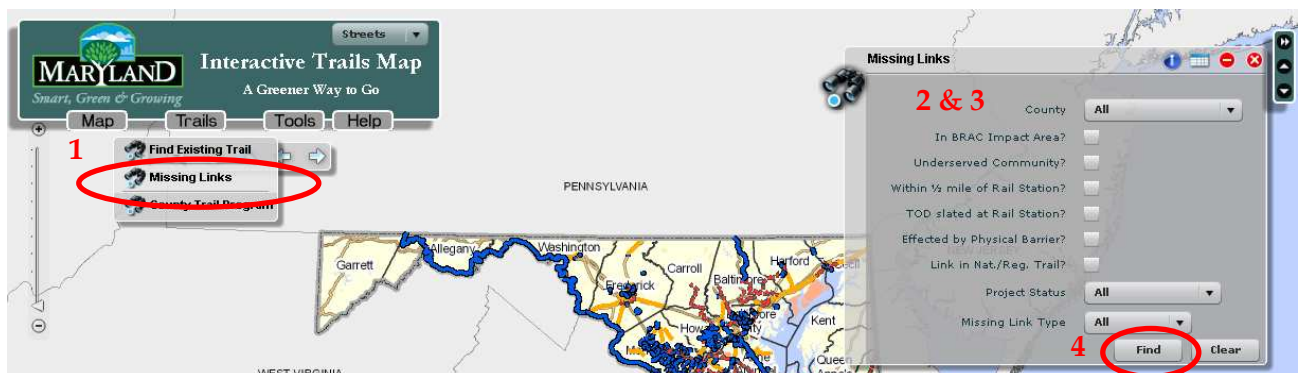
Find Missing Links in the Trail Network

The Interactive Trails Map can be used to search for missing links in the transportation trails network that were identified in the Maryland Trails: A Greener Way to Go Plan. These missing links can be queried based upon multiple criteria.

1. Mouse over the **Trails** menu and click on **Missing Links**.
2. The Missing Links pop-up window can be used to identify missing links based on multiple criteria. Click the check boxes to select or unselect the following criteria.
 - Is the link in a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Impact Area?
 - Is the link in an underserved community identified in the MD Trails Plan?
 - Is the link within one half mile of a rail transit station? If so, is transit-oriented development planned for the rail station?
 - Does the link address a physical barrier (e.g. river or highway crossing)?
 - Does the link complete a segment of a national or regional trail (e.g. East Coast Greenway, American Discovery Trail)?

Check marks indicate the criteria will be used to query the list of potential missing links.

3. Use the pull-down menus to query missing links based on the following criteria:
 - The county that the missing link is located in.
 - The status of the project (e.g. planned, proposed, uninvestigated)?
 - Does the link bridge a gap between existing trails (continuity link) or provide service to a new area (service link)?
4. After the search criteria have been selected, click the **Find** button. A list of missing links that match the search criteria will appear in the Missing Links window and will also be highlighted on the map. Use the scroll bar on the right side of the Missing Links window to scroll through the results.



5. Hold your mouse over any missing link in the results list to pan the map to that trail segment. Click on any missing link in the results list to zoom in on it. A binoculars icon will appear over the selected missing link.
6. Click on the orange arrow icon next to any result to open a new web browser window/tab to the target county's trail program website.
7. Click on the information icon to start a new search.
8. To minimize the Missing Links window, click the red minus sign icon. To close the window, click the red X icon.

